

**The Black is Booklist is a list of recent books concerning the African American experience. It is published as part of the Boston Public Library's observance of Black History Month each year.**

# black is...

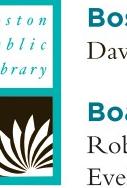
## Books about the African American Experience Booklist for Adults • 2016

### Compiled by Boston Public Library staff

Akunna Eneh, Dudley Branch  
Janice Knight, Codman Square Branch  
Margaret Phillipert, Lower Mills Branch  
Anne Smart, South End Branch



### City of Boston Martin J. Walsh, Mayor



### Boston Public Library David Leonard, Interim President



### Board of Trustees Robert E. Gallery, Chair Evelyn Arana-Ortiz, Vice Chair Zamawa Arenas Cheryl Cronin Carol Fulp John T. Hailer Paul A. La Camera Representative Byron Rushing



## FICTION

### *The Turner House*

By Angela Flournoy  
In this family saga, the Turner children decide the fate of the family house.  
FICTION FLOURNOY A

### *The Cherokee Rose: A Novel of Gardens and Ghosts*

By Tiya Miles  
Three women investigate the history of a Cherokee plantation.  
FICTION MILES T

### *God Help the Child*

By Toni Morrison  
Bride is haunted by her abusive past. Her mother learns that "what you do to children matters. And they might never forget."  
FICTION MORRISON T

### *Grant Park*

By Leonard Pitts, Jr.  
Two former Civil Rights workers become involved in a racially charged conspiracy.  
FICTION PITTS L

### *Jam on the Vine: A Novel*

By LaShonda Katrice Barnett  
Ivoe Williams escapes her segregated southern town, gets a college education, and moves to Kansas City where she establishes an African American newspaper.  
FICTION BARNETT L

## Loving Day: A Novel

By Mat Johnson  
Warren Duffy returns to the United States to meet his daughter for the first time and to live in the haunted house he inherited from his father.  
FICTION JOHNSON M

## Only the Strong: An American Novel

By Jabari Asim  
In a 1970s midwestern town, the lives of an ex-hitman, pediatrician, mobster, and a college student intersect. The author is a professor at Emerson College.  
FICTION ASIM J

## Pleasantville

By Attica Locke  
Environmental lawyer Jay Porter takes on a case on behalf of the town of Pleasantville against a sinister corporate entity when a young girl goes missing. The author is a writer and producer for the television series *Empire*.  
FICTION LOCKE A

## The Star Side of Bird Hill

By Naomi Jackson  
Sisters Phaedra and Dionne are sent from their home in Brooklyn to Bird Hill, Barbados, to live with their grandmother Hyacinth, a midwife and a practitioner of obeah, a local spiritual practice.  
FICTION JACKSON N

## International

*The Fishermen: A Novel*  
By Chigozie Obioma  
In 1990s Nigeria, Benjamin and his brothers skip school to go fishing then meet a man who gives them a terrifying prediction.  
FICTION OBIOMA C

## This House Is Not for Sale

By E. C. Osondu  
This book tells the story of a family who lives in an isolated African village. Grandpa, the family patriarch, and the family house hold the family and the community together.  
FICTION OSONDU E

## Under the Uduala Trees

By Chinelo Okparanta  
During the Nigerian Civil War, eleven-year-old Ijeoma is sent away for safety. While in exile she falls in love with another displaced girl from another tribe.  
FICTION OKPARANT C

## Urban

*Games Divas Play*  
By Angela Burt-Murray  
Someone is stalking NBA wife Vanessa King. She turns to her friend Nia Bullock, print and web editor-in-chief of *DivaDish*, for help.  
FICTION BURTMURR A

## How Can I Be Down?

By Brenda Hampton  
Drug dealer Kiley Jacoby Abrams discovers he has more problems than usual. Unreliable friends, his brother, and dishonest women cause him to move to St. Louis for a fresh start.  
URBAN FICTION HAMPTON B

## Lady Elect 2: Lady Arykah Reigns

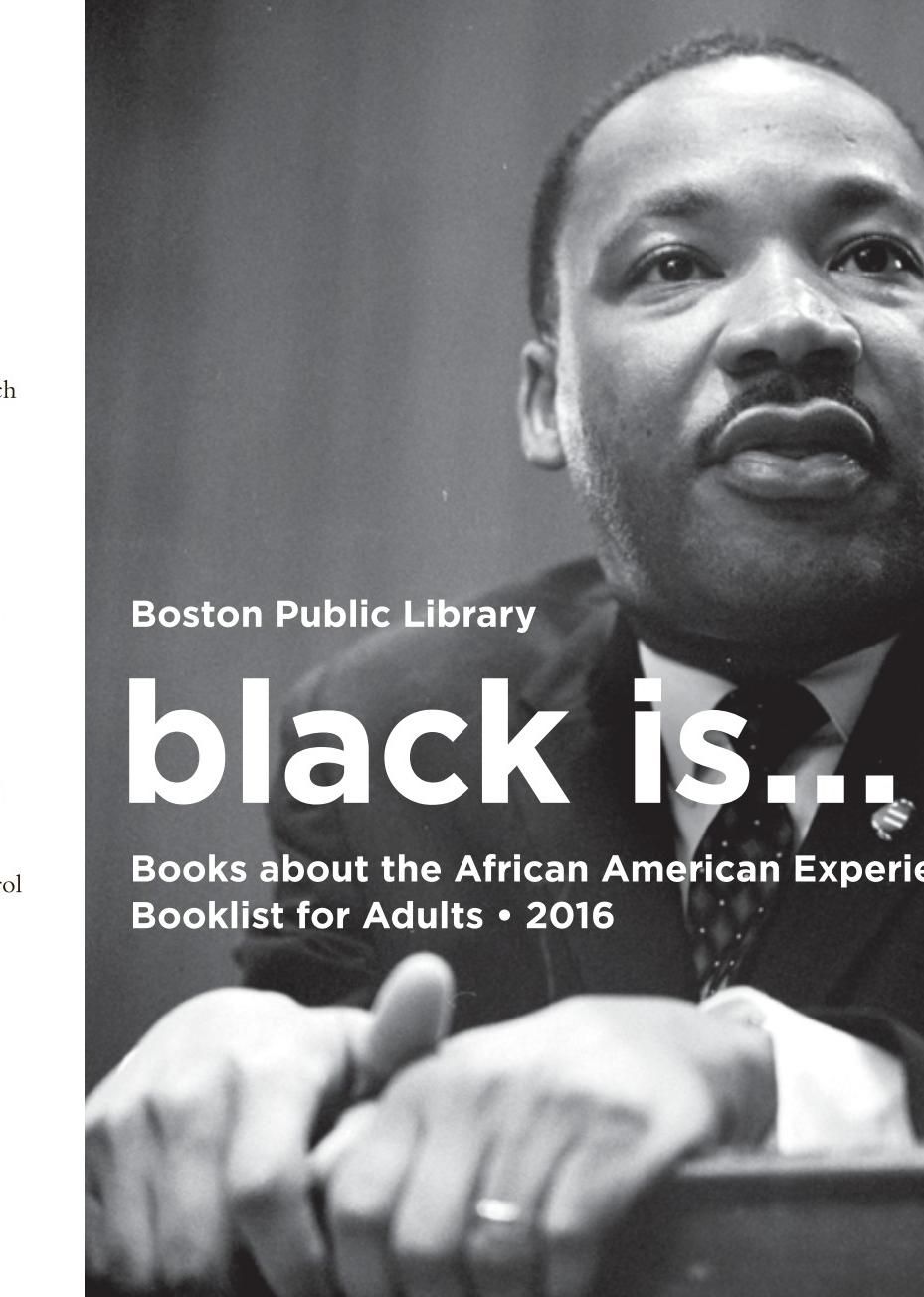
By Nikita Lynette Nichols  
Arykah Miles-Howell returns to church shortly after being assaulted and losing her baby.  
URBAN FICTION NICHOLS N

## The Perfect Revenge

By Lutishia Lovely  
Jacqueline Tate is released from prison and seeks revenge on Nathan Carver and his extended family.  
URBAN FICTION LOVELY L

## A Moment of Silence: Midnight III

By Sister Souljah  
In this third installment of his story, Midnight's faith and sense of self-control are tested by the injustice and racism surrounding the African American community.  
URBAN FICTION SOULJAH



**Boston Public Library**  
**black is...**  
**Books about the African American Experience**  
**Booklist for Adults • 2016**

## NONFICTION

### Biography/Memoir

#### Alex Haley and the Books That Changed a Nation

By Robert J. Norrell

This is the first biography of Alex Haley, author of *Roots* and *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*, two books that exposed Americans to African American history.

BIOG E185.97.H24 N68 2015

#### Billie Holiday: The Musician and the Myth

By John Szwed

Using recently found materials, the author describes how Billie Holiday's personal experiences influenced her music.

BIOG ML420.H58 S99 2015

#### The Education of Kevin Powell: A Boy's Journey into Manhood

By Kevin Powell

Hip-hop journalist, poet, and activist Kevin Powell describes his early life of poverty, his rise as a journalist and activist, and his issues with addiction and depression.

BIOG PS3566.O83253 Z46 2015

#### The Face That Changed It All: A Memoir

By Beverly Johnson with Alison Samuels

Beverly Johnson, the first African American supermodel on the cover of *Vogue* magazine, talks about her rise to success.

BIOG HD6073.M77 J63 2015

#### Finding Samuel Lowe: China, Jamaica, Harlem

By Paula Williams Madison

Samuel Lowe, the author's grandfather, lived in Kingston with a Jamaican woman and their daughter until his Chinese wife arrived and irreparably changed the family's life.

BIOG E184.A1 M22 2015

#### Florynce "Flo" Kennedy: The Life of a Black Feminist Radical

By Sherie M. Randolph

This book is a biography of Florynce Kennedy, a groundbreaking attorney and a black power and feminist activist.

BIOG KF373.K45 R36 2015

#### George Washington Carver: A Life

By Christina Vella

This is a comprehensive biography of the distinguished scientist, inventor, artist, and scholar.

BIOG S417.C3 V45 2015

#### Miss Jessie's: Creating a Successful Business from Scratch—Naturally

By Miko Branch

Miko Branch provides both a family memoir and a business guide based on her family's experience building up Miss Jessie's, the natural hair company.

BIOG TT965.B733 2015x

#### Negroland: A Memoir

By Margo Jefferson

Margo Jefferson discusses her upbringing among the African American elite.

BIOG F548.9.N4 J44 2015

#### Power Forward: My Presidential Education

By Reggie Love

Reggie Love played basketball at Duke University, worked in Senator Obama's mailroom, and later served as President Obama's personal aide.

E901.1.L68 A3 2015

#### Spectacle: The Astonishing Life of Ota Benga

By Pamela Newkirk

The life of Ota Benga is shrouded in myth. This book uncovers the true ordeal of Ota Benga, a four-foot-eleven-inch Congolese man who, in 1906, was held captive alongside an orangutan at the New York Zoological Gardens.

BIOG DT 650.4.B46 N49 2015x

#### Street Poison: The Biography of Iceberg Slim

By Justin Gifford

This book is a biography of Robert "Iceberg Slim" Beck, the original chronicler of urban America. He influenced '70s "Blaxploitation," hip-hop, and twenty-first-century urban fiction cultures.

BIOG PS3552.E25 Z64 2015

#### The Wind in the Reeds: A Storm, a Play, and the City That Would Not Be Broken

By Wendell Pierce

Producer and actor Wendell Pierce tells the story of how he helped to rebuild Pontchartrain Park, his family's neighborhood in New Orleans, following Hurricane Katrina.

BIOG PN2287.P5395 A3 2015

#### Year of Yes: How to Dance It Out, Stand in the Sun, and Be Your Own Person

By Shonda Rhimes

The creator of *Grey's Anatomy* and *Scandal* describes how she transformed her life by opening her heart and mind by saying "yes."

TX715.R2136 2015

#### Soul Food Love: Healthy Recipes Inspired by One Hundred Years of Cooking in a Black Family

By Alice Randall and Caroline Randall Williams

A mother and daughter tweak their family's traditional recipes to preserve their history and flavors while reducing the fat and calories.

E185.86.C36 2015x

#### Child, Please: How Mama's Old School Lessons Helped Me Check Myself before I Wrecked Myself

By Ylonda Gault Caviness

In this memoir, the author describes how her parenting style altered to reflect her mother's traditional style after her third child was born.

E185.86.C36 2015x

#### The Sisters Are Alright: Changing the Broken Narrative of Black Women in America

By Tamara Winfrey Harris

The author tells her story as a black woman in America and encourages black women to be themselves rather than conforming to others' ideals.

E185.86.W5565 2015

#### Delta Jewels: In Search of My Grandmother's Wisdom

By Alyisia Burton Steele

Author and photographer Alyisia Burton Steele photographed fifty female church elders in the Mississippi Delta.

F347.M6.S74 2015

### Expressions

#### Black Broadway: African Americans on the Great White Way

By Stewart F. Lane

Using words and pictures, the author,

a Broadway producer and historian,

describes a century of theater

contributions by African Americans.

PN2270.A35 L36 2015

E185.615.C6335 2015

#### If Someone Says "You Complete Me," Run!

By Whoopi Goldberg

By Adam Rothman

During Reconstruction, Rose Herera

traveled to Cuba from New Orleans to

rescue her enslaved children.

E185.93.L6 R58 2015

HQ800.G65 2015x

#### Child, Please: How Mama's Old School Lessons Helped Me Check Myself before I Wrecked Myself

By Ylonda Gault Caviness

In this memoir, the author describes how her parenting style altered to reflect her mother's traditional style after her third child was born.

E185.86.C36 2015x

E907.R45 2015

#### The Sisters Are Alright: Changing the Broken Narrative of Black Women in America

By Tamara Winfrey Harris

The author tells her story as a black

woman in America and encourages black

women to be themselves rather than

conforming to others' ideals.

E185.86.W5565 2015

E185.86.C36 2015x

### History and Contemporary Issues

#### Between the World and Me

By Linda Hervieux

This book tells the story of the 320<sup>th</sup>

Barrage Balloon Battalion, a unit of

African American soldiers who landed

at Normandy and were the unsung

heroes of D-Day.

LC214.22.V8 G74 2015

#### Beyond Freedom's Reach: A Kidnapping in the Twilight of Slavery

By Joy-Ann Reid

The author, a national MSNBC

correspondent, analyzes the different

responses to the American racial divide

by Barack Obama, Bill and Hillary

Clinton, and the Democratic Party.

HM1106.N33 2015

E185.93.L6 R58 2015

#### The Tyranny of the Meritocracy: Democratizing Higher Education in America

By Lani Guinier

The author outlines ideas for ensuring

that ethnic minorities have positive

experiences at elite American universities.

LA227.4.G85 2015

E185.86.W5565 2015

E185.86.C36 2015x

### Something Must Be Done About Prince Edward County: A Family, a Virginia Town, a Civil Rights Battle

By Kristen Green

This book tells the true story of a

Virginia town that refused to integrate

after the *Brown v. Board of Education*

decision.

LC214.22.V8 G74 2015

#### Taking on Diversity: How We Can Move from Anxiety to Respect

By Rupert W. Nacoste

A campus "diversity doctor" shares his</p